

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 9, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9-18 are presented for examination. Claims 3, 6, and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended as discussed below. Claims 1, 11, 12, and 14 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification had been amended as to matters of form. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action requests submission of a supplemental declaration, because the inventor's residence is not stated on the declaration. However, it is believed that such submission is not necessary, because the inventor's city of residence has been provided on the application data sheet:

Applicant's place of residence, that is, the city and either state or foreign country, is required to be included in the oath or declaration in a nonprovisional application for compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 unless it is included in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76).

M.P.E.P. § 605.02. Withdrawal of the requirement for a supplemental declaration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is believed that this rejection has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 8, 11, 12, and 14-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 8 and intervening Claims 3 and 6.

Claims 4, 5, and 7 have been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claims 11, 12, and 14 have been rewritten in independent form, including the subject matter of their respective base claims and intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 11, 12, and 14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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